

CLAIMS

1. A digital camera comprising:

an imaging unit operable to generate an image by photographing an object;

5 a receiving unit operable to receive information relating to image processing from one or more transmission devices;

10 a judging unit operable to judge whether the image is to be output or not, based on the information received by the receiving unit; and

15 an output unit operable to, in accordance with the judgment made by the judging unit, output the image to a memory, or discard the image, the memory being readable by the digital camera or an external device.

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2. The digital camera of Claim 1, wherein

the judging unit further judges whether the image is to be processed or not, and

20 the output unit outputs the image to the memory without processing, or processes and outputs the image to the memory, in accordance with the judgment made by the judging unit.

3. The digital camera of Claim 2, wherein

the receiving unit includes:

25 a first receiving unit operable to receive first information from a first transmission device; and

 a second receiving unit operable to receive second information indicating image modification corresponding to the object from a second transmission device,

the judging unit makes the judgment based on the first information, and

if the judging unit judges that the image is to be processed and output, the output unit performs the image modification indicated by the second information on the image, 5 and outputs the modified image to the memory.

4. The digital camera of Claim 3, wherein
the output unit performs the image modification to make
10 the image visually distinguishable.

5. The digital camera of Claim 4, wherein
when the second receiving unit receives the second information, the judging unit examines whether the first 15 receiving unit has received the first information, and if the first receiving unit has received the first information, the judging unit judges that the image is to be processed and output.

20 6. The digital camera of Claim 4, wherein
the first information includes information indicating image modification,
when the second receiving unit receives the second information, the judging unit examines whether the first 25 receiving unit has received the first information, if the first receiving unit has received the first information, the judging unit judges that the image is to be processed and output, and the output unit performs the image modification indicated by the first information on the

image, in addition to the image modification indicated by the second information.

7. The digital camera of Claim 3, wherein

5 when the second receiving unit receives the second information, the judging unit examines whether the first receiving unit has received the first information,

if the first receiving unit has received the first information, the judging unit judges that the image is to
10 be output without being processed.

8. The digital camera of Claim 3, wherein

when the second receiving unit receives the second information, the judging unit examines whether the first receiving unit has received the first information,
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if the first receiving unit has received the first information, the judging unit judges that the image is not to be output.

20 9. The digital camera of Claim 3, wherein

the first transmission device is a gate which prestores the first information, and through which a user carrying the digital camera passes, and

25 the second transmission device is an IC tag which prestores the second information, and which is attached to, hung around, or provided near the object.

10. The digital camera of Claim 9, further comprising:

a driving unit operable to, when detecting that a shutter

release button included in the digital camera is pressed down, cause the imaging unit and the second receiving unit to operate concurrently.

5 . 11. The digital camera of Claim 10, wherein
the digital camera has a function as a mobile telephone
for performing radio communication.

12. The digital camera of Claim 2, wherein
10 the transmission device is an IC tag that is attached
to, hung around, or provided near the object, and that prestores
the information which indicates image processing
corresponding to the object,

the judging unit judges that the image is to be subjected
15 to the image processing indicated by the information, and
then to be output, and

the output unit subjects the image to the image
processing, and outputs the processed image to the memory.

20 13. The digital camera of Claim 12, further comprising:
a driving unit operable to, when detecting that a shutter
release button included in the digital camera is pressed down,
cause the imaging unit and the receiving unit to operate
concurrently.

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14. The digital camera of Claim 13, wherein
the output unit executes an image processing program
corresponding to the image processing to make the image
visually distinguishable.

15. The digital camera of Claim 13, wherein
the receiving unit receives the information which is
character data showing an explanation about the object,
5 the judging unit judges that the image is to be subjected
to the image processing which indicates addition of the
character data to the image, and then output, and
the output unit subjects the image to the image
processing which indicates the addition of the character data
10 to the image, and outputs the processed image to the memory.

16. The digital camera of Claim 13, wherein
the receiving unit receives the information which is
copyright information indicating a limitation on copying of
15. the image,
the judging unit judges that the image is to be subjected
to the image processing which indicates addition of the
copyright information to the image, and then output, and
the output unit subjects the image to the image
processing which indicates the addition of the copyright
20 information to the image, and outputs the processed image
to the memory.

17. The digital camera of Claim 13, wherein
25 the receiving unit receives the information which is
a computer program to perform predetermined image
modification,
the judging unit judges that the image is to be subjected
to the image processing which indicates (i) execution of the

computer program to perform the predetermined image modification on the image, or (ii) addition of the computer program to the image, and then output, and

the output unit subjects the image to the image

5. processing which indicates the predetermined image modification, or the addition of the computer program to the image, and outputs the processed image to the memory.

- 10 18. A memory card attached to a digital camera that generates image data by photographing an object, the memory card storing the image data, comprising:

an image receiving unit operable to receive an image generated by the digital camera;

- 15 a receiving unit operable to receive information relating to image processing from one or more transmission devices;

- 20 a judging unit operable to, based on the information received by the receiving unit, judge whether the image is to be output without being processed, the image is to be processed and output, or the image is not to be output;

an output unit operable to, in accordance with the judgment made by the judging unit, output the image without processing, process and output the image, or discard the image; and

- 25 a storing unit operable to store the image output from the output unit.

19. A digital camera system including a digital camera that photographs an object, and a first transmission device that

is attached to, hung around, or provided near the object,
the digital camera comprising:

an imaging unit operable to generate an image by
photographing the object;

5 a receiving unit operable to receive first information
relating to image processing corresponding to the object,
from the first transmission device;

a judging unit operable to, based on the first
information, judge whether the image is to be output without
10 being processed, the image is to be processed and output,
or the image is not to be output; and

15 an output unit operable to, in accordance with the
judgment made by the judging unit, output the image to a memory
without processing, processes and outputs the image to the
memory, or discards the image, the memory being readable by
the digital camera or an external device, and

the first transmission device comprising:

a first storing unit prestoring the first information;
and

20 a first transmission unit operable to transmit the first
information to the digital camera.

20. The digital camera system of Claim 19, further including
a second transmission device,

25 the second transmission device comprising:

a second storing unit prestoring second information
relating to image modification; and

a second transmission unit operable to transmit the
second information to the digital camera, wherein

the receiving unit further receives the second information from the second transmission device, when a user carrying the digital camera passes through the second transmission device, and

5. when the judging unit judges that the image is to be processed and output, the output unit performs the image modification indicated by the second information on the image, in addition to the image processing indicated by the first information, and then outputs the modified image to the memory.

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21. The digital camera system of Claim 20, wherein the digital camera has a function as a mobile telephone for performing radio communication.

- 15 22. The digital camera system of Claim 21, further including a terminal that generates a warning sound, the terminal being provided near the object, wherein

the digital camera sends a signal to the terminal, concurrently with the generation of the image by the imaging unit, and

the terminal comprises:

a signal receiving unit operable to receive the signal from the digital camera; and

25 a sound generating unit operable to generate a warning sound, when the signal receiving unit receives the signal.

23. A control method for use in a digital camera, comprising steps of:

generating an image by photographing an object;

receiving information relating to image processing from one or more transmission devices;

judging whether the image is to be output or not, based on the information received in the receiving step; and

5. outputting the image to a memory, or discarding the image, in accordance with the judgment made in the judging step, the memory being readable by the digital camera or an external device.

10 24. A control program for use in a digital camera, comprising steps of:

generating an image by photographing an object;

receiving information relating to image processing from one or more transmission devices;

15 judging whether the image is to be output or not, based on the information received in the receiving step; and

outputting the image to a memory, or discarding the image, in accordance with the judgment made in the judging step, the memory being readable by the digital camera or an external

20 device.

25. A computer-readable storage medium storing a control program for use in a digital camera, the control program comprising steps of:

generating an image by photographing an object;

receiving information relating to image processing from one or more transmission devices;

judging whether the image is to be output or not, based on the information received in the receiving step; and

outputting the image to a memory, or discarding the image, in accordance with the judgment made in the judging step, the memory being readable by the digital camera or an external device.